



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tetsuya WATANABE et al.

Appl. No. 09/981,807

Confirmation No. 7561

Filed: October 19, 2001

For: SHAFT SEALING APPARATUS

Art Unit: 3676

Examiner: Vishal A. Patel

Atty. Docket No. 36595-176071

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Information Disclosure Statement

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Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

In order to comply the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith is a form listing the documents cited in the European Search Report dated May 9, 2003 in the corresponding European Patent Application. The relevance of each document is indicated in the European Search Report.

Copies of the documents are attached.

Pursuant to 37 C.F. R. § 1.97 (e), Applicants hereby state that each item of information contained in the present Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

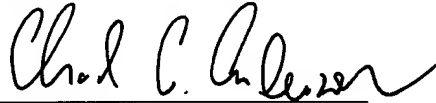
In view of the above, no further statement of relevance need be given, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited publications and make them of record.

Please charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Date:

07/15/03

Respectfully submitted,



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